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KHPA™ KANSAS HEALTH POLICY AUTHORITY

Kansas Health Policy Authority Operational Policy

Title: Authentication Policy

Number: POL-IT:2008-17
Effective date : 9-23-08
Date Revised: None
Date of Annual Review: None
Authority: POL-IT:2007-0?

CATEGORY
Information Technology

SUBJECT
Information Technology Security

BACKGROUND
The need for authentication is a response to the need to avoid or reduce the risk that the wrong person will access, us, change, delete or otherwise improperly interact with valuable data or transactions.

Authentication is the process and documentation required to validate a user's identity. Authentication can also be a process in which electronic devices validate the equipment's identity. The strength of authentication can range from weak to strong. The selection of authentication strength should be based upon the level of risk or consequence if security was breached.

POLICY STATEMENT
Systems must implement authentication functions that are consistent with the level of confidentiality and sensitivity of the information it contains and processes. Authentication techniques must be used to positively identify a person or device in order to provide accountability.

Individual authentication must be based upon:

- Something the individual knows such as a password
- Something the individual possesses, such as a digital certificate, smart card/smart token
- Something that relies on measurable physical characteristics, such as a fingerprint or iris (eye) scans

A computer, terminal or other peripheral equipment/devices must be authenticated as an authorized device within a data processing system.

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